

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 ARA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 304

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1631

SECTO 24

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE, XM

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN
MINISTER CALVANI.

1. THE SECRETARY HAD A 30-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER CALVANI EVENING OF FEBRUARY 20. SECRETARY WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JACK KUBISH, LEGAL
ADVISER MAW AND LITTLE (ARA). CALVANI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR AGUILAR, AMBASSADOR GARCIA BUSTILLOS AND
AMBASSADOR SOSA. THE DISCUSSION DEALT PRINCIPALLY WITH MFM.

2. SECRETARY SAID THAT THE US WANTS SERIOUSLY TO GET STARTED
ON A NEW BASIS WITH LATIN AMERICA, STATING THAT ALTHOUGH
SOME OTHER PROBLEMS HAVE MORE CURRENT URGENCY, NONE IS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID HE
HOPED TO CREATE A NEW SPIRIT AND A NEW ATTITUDE AT THE MEXICO
MEETING. THE MAJOR THING IS TO START DOWN THE ROAD AND TO
LAY OUT A FUTURE WORK PROGRAM.

3. SECRETARY SAID THAT HE HAD A PRACTICAL PROBLEM AS TO
WHETHER HIS PUBLIC REMARKS THE FOLLOWING DAY SHOULD DEAL
IN GENERALITIES OR SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIVE AND DEAL WITH THE
AGENDA ITEMS. HE SAID HE HOPED TO AVOID GENERALITIES SO
THAT IT WOULD BE CLEAR THAT WE ASSIGN REAL MEANING TO THE
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MEXICO MEETING. CALVANI SAID HE AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH.

4. SECRETARY ASKED WHETHER CALVANI THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A FINAL DOCUMENT AT THE CONFERENCE. CALVANI RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BUT EVEN IF NOT, HE WOULD BE SATISFIED. THE INTENT OF THIS MEETING, HE SAID, IS NOT TO NEGOTIATE OR TO SIGN A TREATY BUT TO SPEAK FREELY ONE'S OWN POINT OF VIEW. THIS IS A NEW KIND OF RELATIONSHIP, HE SAID. THE MEXICO MEETING WILL NOT BE THE LAST MEETING BUT SIMPLY THE FIRST CALVANI MENTIONED A POSSIBLE PROBLEM IN SOME OF THE MINISTERS' HAVING EXCESSIVE EXPECTATIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE.

5. SECRETARY SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING WHEN WE PROPOSED ENERGY AS A TOPIC FOR THE CONFERENCE. THIS IS A COMMON PROBLEM, HE SAID, AND HE WISHED TO INFORM HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE HEMISPHERE OF OUR GLOBAL APPROACH TO IT, INCLUDING WHAT WAS DONE AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD NOT OFFER ANY PROPOSALS NOR ATTEMPT TO AFFECT OIL PRICES. WHILE THE PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS HAVE DIFFERENT INTERESTS, HE WAS NOT ATTEMPTING TO PUT PRESSURE ON VENEZUELA THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS ITEM. CALVANI SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED WHEN THIS ITEM WAS PROPOSED SINCE THE SCOPE OF THE MFM RELATED TO STRICTLY LATIN AMERICAN QUESTIONS. HE MENTIONED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED NO STATEMENT ON THIS QUESTION. SECRETARY SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MEXICO CITY MEETING IS TO WORK TOWARDS A NEW RELATIONSHIP AND HE WANTED, IN SUGGESTING THE ENERGY ITEM, TO TELL HIS COLLEAGUES WHAT THE U.S. WAS DOING ABOUT THIS MATTER. HE SAID THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY MINISTER TO COMMENT ON HIS PRESENTATION IF THEY DO NOT WISH TO.

6. CALVANI TWICE MENTIONED THAT THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION TO A DIALOGUE WAS THE FIRST TIME IN HIS FIVE YEARS IN OFFICE IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS TYPIFIES THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA.

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